



State and Federal Communications, Inc.

2019 Corporate Social Responsibility Report



State &
Federal
COMMUNICATIONS

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President and CEO Elizabeth Bartz
with Ohio Gov. Mike Dewine
Photo by Tim Fitzwater of Fltzwater Photography



2019 interns at Annunciation Church's
Good Samaritans Food Distribution Ministry

2019 Staff Photo



A Message From **Elizabeth Bartz**

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

From the start, I have believed the only way forward is by the power of a team. The staff of State and Federal Communications is smart, talented, and driven, but the extraordinary success of this company is built on teamwork. Because of our teamwork, we offer the highest standard of compliance services in lobbying, political contributions, and procurement lobbying laws. We believe in the power of a team.

Some may see corporate social responsibility as belonging to the realm of large corporations. This has never stopped us from finding ways to help our community in areas such as sustainability, poverty, hunger, and literacy. Whether it is supporting our foodbank's Harvest for Hunger Campaign, painting at the Akron Rotary Camp, or mentoring students, we are there in force. I had the great joy of reading to students in the Akron Public Schools on Read to Me Day! I'll never forget it.

This company makes effective use of partnerships with the United Way of Summit County, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, the Akron Urban League, and many more amazing organizations. There is nothing small about the power of a team.

Thank you for your interest in our CSR program. We can only find solutions to the challenges facing our community *together*. We are dedicated to using the power of *our* team to make a difference nationally and in Northeast Ohio.

Best regards,
Elizabeth Bartz



CREATING SPACE FOR GOOD TO HAPPEN

Our employees are the first stakeholders of our CSR program. State and Federal Communications offers competitive salaries, first-class healthcare benefits, an award-winning wellness program, and professional development to our staff. In this way, they can be empowered to give the highest level of performance.



Compliance Department on Election Day

VOTING

State and Federal Communications allows each employee one hour to vote on each Election Day.



State and Federal Communications proudly received a statewide 2019 Healthy Worksite Bronze Level Award (for an employer with fewer than 300 employees) from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio. The Healthy Worksite Award recognized 111 Ohio employers who demonstrated a commitment to employee wellness through comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs. The focus of our wellness program for the year was Eat, Live, and Move.

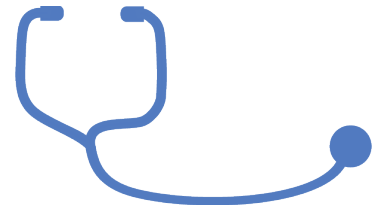


*HR Generalist
Anastasia Drescher,
receiving the HBCO
Healthy Worksite
Award*

*On-site Smoothie Truck in April to
promote healthy snacks during the day!*



Events: State and Federal Communications hosted an on-site pharmacy during our benefits day to give the employees a flu shot and blood pressure screening. We had a popular smoothie truck visit during the summer.



Staff Members at a Wellness Presentation

Challenges: We utilized a wellness portal which provided us with monthly challenges under the Eat, Live and Move categories. The wellness program included real food, water intake, and 10,000 steps challenges. Lastly, we encouraged employees throughout the year to take the stairway instead of the elevator.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

State and Federal Communications remains dedicated to offering unparalleled professional development to its staff. This helps them excel in their profession and become more connected with the government relations community and the needs of Northeast Ohio. The following conferences and events are offered to employees throughout the year:



Staff at PAC State and Local Conference

National: Public Affairs Council National Advocacy Conference, National PAC Conference, State and Local Government Relations Conference, Conference on Governmental Ethics Laws, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, State Government Affairs Council, Washington Area State Relations Group, and the Practising Law Institute.



Staff at an Akron Roundtable luncheon

Local: Akron Roundtable, Akron Press Club, Akron Area Public Relations Society of America, PRSA YouToo Social Media Conference, Content Marketing World, and ACES: The Society for Editing National Conference.

PROTECTING Our ENVIRONMENT

State and Federal Communications is committed to doing its part to protect the environment. We focus on four areas: 1) single-use packaging, 2) paper and cardboard, 3) electronic waste, and 4) fluorescent bulbs. The waste generated at the office prompted our commitment to work with the city of Akron's single-stream recycling program for downtown businesses. Single-use containers, such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and product boxes can now be placed in proper recycling bins rather than sent to landfills.¹ In 2014, State and Federal Communications began using a reverse osmosis water dispensing system. In 2018, the company supplied each employee with a S'well® bottle to reduce the need for single-use containers. State and Federal Communications recycles paper and cardboard waste. SecurShred (Weaver Industries, Akron) shreds and recycles all our business paper. The city of Akron program collects flattened cardboard for processing at its local facility, which is managed by Greenstar Recycling of Houston, Texas. Both electronic waste and fluorescent bulbs are toxic when buried in landfills. Our policy is to upgrade all failed fluorescent bulbs or fixtures to LED. All retired fluorescent bulbs continue to be processed by Veolia North America. All computers, monitors, cables, batteries, and small electronic items taken out of service annually are sent to eWaste of Hudson, Ohio, for proper handling and disposal.²

¹Akron's Curbisde Recycling program does not provide individual results. Instead, community results are reported to the state EPA in the aggregate by Summit ReWorks.

²Copier/printer cartridge (toner and waste) recycling efforts have always been the preferred method of handling this waste by-product, but the effort was not tracked. Beginning in 2019, this effort is being recorded to better gauge impact.



Meet Dave!

Dave McPeek is the Manager of Operations and Facilities for State and Federal Communications. He has been with this company for 13 years. He has been overseeing the growth of the company's recycling and other sustainability efforts since 2006.

"I am proud of this work. Our recycling efforts are helping to protect the environment."

2019 IN REVIEW

55 LBS. FLUORESCENT LAMPS

594 LBS. EWASTE

3432 LBS. PAPER

4081 LBS. TOTAL RECYCLED



Cans for Corridors

In September 2019, State and Federal Communications began to partner with the Akron Zoo in their Cans for Corridors program. By bringing aluminum cans to their collection center, the Akron Zoo sends the money collected from recycling to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. This organization works with Instituto De Pesquisas Ecologicas in Brazil to plant trees, reestablishing vital tree corridors in the suffering Brazilian rainforest. By discarding our used aluminum cans, we are now planting trees in Brazil! In 2019, we collected **1100 cans** and planted **21 trees**.

OVATIONS



Jim Mullen

PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNITED WAY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

"Positive, community-wide change doesn't just happen - it takes hard work and dedication. Through their ongoing commitment to volunteering, State & Federal Communications' employees have shown time and time again that they care deeply about their community. They're always ready to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work of building a better future for everyone that calls Summit County their home."



Beth Loudy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

"State and Federal Communications has been a valued member of the State Government Affairs Council (SGAC) since 2001. Consistently over the years, its generous support of SGAC has helped elevate the level of our programs and events. We have also benefitted from its expert staff's participation in speaking roles and on our committees, and, of course, through the energetic participation and leadership of Elizabeth Bartz, who served as 2011-2012 SGAC President."



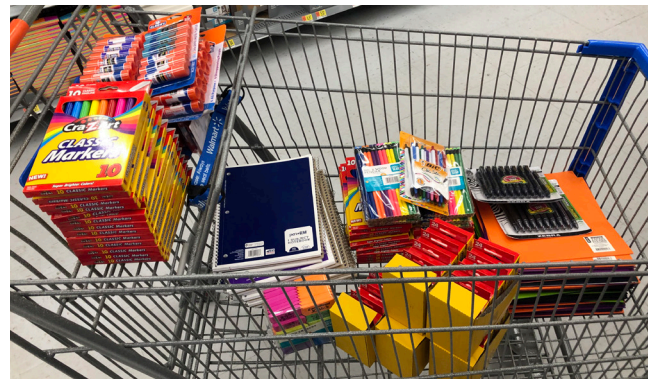
Fr. Jerry Hall

PRIEST, ANNUNCIATION CHURCH, AKRON, OH

"State and Federal Communications is a very valuable partner with the Annunciation Good Samaritan Food Assistance Program. Donations are important, generous, and appreciated, but most significant is providing volunteers to help prepare food baskets and distribute them to our clients. State and Federal volunteers provide that vital personal connection of one human being helping another that can be life changing for both."

STRENGTHENING Our COMMUNITIES

You will see the power of a team in our corporate giving. State and Federal Communications is dedicated to creating a strong, healthy, and vibrant community through four corporate social initiatives: strategic philanthropy, community engagement, education, and diversity. Smart partnerships are critical to the success of our CSR strategy. State and Federal Communications works with area organizations to provide significant benefit to the community far beyond what our individual contributions could do.



Shopping for United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign

This company partners with the United Way of Summit County because of its commitment to community impact. We have held United Way campaigns for the last 20 years. State and Federal Communications matches every dollar donated by its employees. We had 100% employee participation in the 2019 campaign. The company received the United Way of Summit County's Firestone Award for highest per employee gift in a company with fewer than 100 employees. We raised \$28,672, plus the company's matching funds and our Donut and Cider Sale's total of \$812, bringing us to a grand total of \$58,156! The pledge was a six percent increase over the previous year. The average staff pledge was \$774.91.



United Way's Tocqueville Society Luncheon

Additionally, our Spring-Cleaning Drive collected 124 articles of business-appropriate clothing for the Akron Urban League's Walk-In Closet program. We collected 1,378 school supplies to fill 40 backpacks for the United Way Stuff the Bus Program. We collected 64 items of winter clothing, benefitting the outreach of the Akron Snow Angels, who offer help to the most vulnerable in our community during winter months.



Harvest for Hunger Campaign

State and Federal Communications held its first official Harvest for Hunger Campaign for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in 2019. Employees raised \$334 and President and CEO Elizabeth Bartz offered to match our contribution. The company's donation of \$668 means 2,672 meals were provided to the hungry in our community. On May 17, State and Federal Communications was recognized by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for its Bronze level campaign.

Elizabeth Bartz with CSR Manager Joe May

Community ENGAGEMENT

State and Federal Communications is an organization that values community. Our employees volunteered in nonprofit settings,



Staff members volunteering at United Way's Day of Action

served on nonprofit boards, and attended community events. **We show up!** Hands-on community experience has been important for the staff's

leadership, team building skills, and familiarity with the needs of Northeast Ohio.

Our Charitable Service Program: As a benefit of donating 1% of their salary to the United Way campaign, employees of State and Federal Communications received 30 hours of charitable service. The employees can use those hours at the nonprofit of their choice. The staff have volunteered at The Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, the Akron Urban League, The Akron Public Schools, and Project Grad Akron, among other organizations. Our staff used 94 hours of charitable service, a 19% increase over the previous year.

Hunger is a national crisis, which we take seriously. In 2019, 10 employees worked 134 hours helping with food distribution at the Annunciation Church of Akron's Good

Samaritans program. (This is a 270% increase over the previous year.) Three staff members volunteered at the SOS Callahan Community Kitchen as a kickoff for the Public Affairs Council Advocacy Conference in Key West, FL. This community kitchen does food outreach for children and the elderly who are experiencing food insecurity.

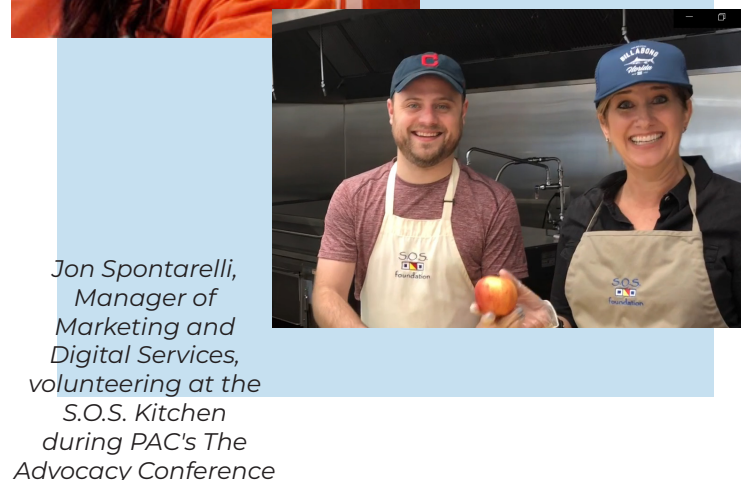
United Way Community Engagement: Twelve employees participated in the United Way Day of Action on June 21 at the Akron Rotary Camp. We sorted hundreds of school supplies for the United Way Stuff the Bus Sort-a-Thon on August 21 and helped deliver them. Elizabeth Bartz and two staff members read to elementary students in United Way's Read to Me Day on November 7.



Adrienne Borgstahl, Manager of Compliance Services, and Jim Warner, Assistant Director of Compliance Services, volunteering at United Way's Page It Forward book drive



CSR Manager Joe May volunteering at Good Samaritans



Jon Spontarelli, Manager of Marketing and Digital Services, volunteering at the S.O.S. Kitchen during PAC's The Advocacy Conference

ADVANCING Our LEADERSHIP

How far do we believe in the Power of aTeam? State and Federal Communications has been supporting our industry partners for decades with memberships and significant sponsorships. Every year we send a team from our staff to attend the national conferences of all the representative organizations.

Here is a list of our national sponsorships:

- National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics
- Public Affairs Council
- State Government Affairs Council
- Washington Area State Relations Group
- Council of State Governments
- Council on Governmental Ethics Laws
- Women in Government Relations
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- National Conference of State Legislatures - Platinum Foundation member
- Women In Government
- Professional Women In Advocacy
- The National Governor's Association
- Public Leadership Education Network



Elizabeth Bartz with Nathan Gonzales of Inside Elections

Our community is rich with amazing organizations bringing about positive change. We partner with them by our membership and sponsorships.

We support:

- Akron Urban League
- United Way of Summit County
- WKSU Radio
- Heart to Heart Communications
- Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
- Akron Roundtable
- Akron Press Club
- Leadership Akron
- Community Legal Aid Services
- Project Learn of Summit County
- International Soap Box Derby



*Elizabeth Bartz
representing Akron*

Elizabeth Bartz is very active in various professional societies, and community and volunteer efforts, sharing her time, talent, and resources. Her government affairs leadership positions include the State Government Affairs Council Executive Committee (SGAC) - the premiere state government affairs association for corporate and trade association executives. She is also a Platinum Foundation member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); former president of Washington (DC) Area State Relations Group (WASRG); on the Board of Directors for the Public Affairs Council; Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL); on the Advisory Council for Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN); and, most recently, Vice President of

the National Institute on Lobbying and Ethics (NILE). Locally, she serves as Vice Chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the United Way of Summit County.



Rebecca South, Associate Director of Federal Compliance Services, and Gamble Hayden, Federal Compliance Services Coordinator, both received the SGAC State Government Affairs Professional Certificate. They are two of ten staff members who have completed this program.



Jonathan Spontarelli, Marketing and Digital Services Manager, serves on the Board of Directors for the Washington Area State Relations Group.



Gamble Hayden, Federal Compliance Services Coordinator, serves on Women In Government Relations' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board.



Michael Beckett, Associate Director of Research Services, concluded his seven-year tenure as a chair of the CASA Board Volunteer Association.



Joe May, Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility, received his certificate from the Leadership Akron Community Leadership Institute.



*Elizabeth Bartz with
Philoptochos President Zoe McClish*

PROJECT PATRIOT

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Akron's chapter of Philoptochos raised money to support the Harry Donovan, Jr. Valor Home of Summit County.

The Harry Donovan, Jr. Valor Home is a transitional residence for homeless male veterans in Akron, OH. The Valor Home houses 30 male veterans for 6 to 9 months and assists them in achieving independence and securing permanent housing and jobs. Veterans participate in art, music, and life skills therapies; self-improvement activities; exercises in self-sufficiency; and self-advocacy training.

The Akron Philoptochos raised funds through a variety of projects throughout the year. They replaced furniture in the living areas; purchased bookcases, computer tables, and a commercial-grade food processor; installed stainless steel shelving in the pantry; and raised money for other items on the Valor Home's wish list.

State and Federal Communications donated \$1,195 in 2019 toward this noble cause.

EDUCATION

State and Federal Communications proudly supports education in our community in several ways. The company has offered 63 paid internships to college students in Northeast Ohio since 2002. In 2019, nine interns participated in the program.

We work hard to ensure the internship experience gives value to the interns and to the organization. The interns work in various departments of the company and they work with nonprofit organizations making a difference in the community. They are afforded excellent networking and professional development opportunities in Leadership Akron's Edge program.

State and Federal Communications plays a direct role helping students in the Akron Public Schools.

Two State and Federal Communications employees made the year-long commitment to volunteer as mentors to Akron Public Schools students in the iC.A.R.E. Mentoring program.



*2019 Interns at
Leadership Akron's Edge Program*

9

Interns Summer
of 2019

63

Interns Since
2002



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